

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI MEDIA ON RESULTS OF RABIN TALKS IN U.S.

REF: TEL AVIV 825 (NOTAL)

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1. AS REFLECTED IN REFTTEL, CERTAIN THEMES ARE BEGINNING TO

APPEAR IN ISRAELI MEDIA AS PRINCIPAL OUTCOMES OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT HERE. THIS TREATMENT OF VISIT HAS IN SOME CASES BEEN MISLEADING AND DISTORTED, AND HAS CONVEYED INACCURATE IMPRESSION OF U.S. POSTURE ON ISSUES INVOLVED, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN SOME CURRENCY IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ELSEWHERE. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND IS FOR USE OF ACTION ADDRESSEES IN EVENT THESE ACCOUNTS ARE RAISED WITH YOU.

2. STORY HAS APPEARED THAT U.S. AND ISRAEL AGREED TO SOUND OUT KING HUSSEIM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL-JORDAN NEGOTIATIONS- THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT CORRECT. THERE EXISTS NO U.S.-ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING THAT EFFORT TO START SUCH TALKS SHOULD BE NEXT STEP IN OUR MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. WE AVE REACHED NO CONCLUSIONS RE MOST PRACTICAL COURSE TO PURSUE TO MOVE NEGOTIATING PROCESS FORWARD, PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS IN PERIOD AHEAD WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

3. MEDIA CITE AUTHORITATIVE ISRAELI SOURCES AS PREDICTING, IN WAKE OF RABIN'S TALKS HERE, THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE IF ANY DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS IN MIDDLE EAST THIS YEAR. SUCH PREDICTION IS IN NO WAY REFLECTIVE OF U.S. VIEWS. U.S. BELIEVES THAT 1976 MUST SEE MIDDLE EAST PROGRESS, AND WE ARE LOOKING TO ALL PARTIES TO MAKE REAL CONTRIBUTIONS SO THAT PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

4. ISRAELI MEDIA ASSERT THAT RABIN WAS TOLD IN WASHINGTON THAT U.S. OPPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF THIRD STATE BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL. FACT IS U.S. HAS NOT TAKEN POSITION ON FORM THAT SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN OR OTHER ISSUES SHOULD TAKE BUT HAS MAINTAINED THAT THIS SHOULD BE DETERMINED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. REGARDING PALESTINIAN ISSUE PER SE, WE HAVE SAID SETTLEMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS.

5. MEDIA HAVE ASSERTED THAT RABIN WAS GIVEN VERY FORTHCOMING U.S. RESPONSE ON ISRAELI REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ARAB GOVERNMENTS REALIZE THAT U.S. ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS FACT OF LIFE AND IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NATURAL THAT THIS SUBJECT SHOULD ARISE DURING RABIN VISIT. OUR RESPONSE TO RABIN AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, CONCERNED LONG-STANDING ISRAELI REQUESTS FOR CONVENTIONAL ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN PENDING FOR SOME MONTHS AND DELIVERY OF WHICH IS IN MOST CASES FAR IN THE FUTURE. SENIOR ISRAELIS HAVE THEMSELVES SAID PUBLICLY THAT U.S. DECISIONS WERE NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE. IN SHORT, NOTHING DRAMATIC HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THIS SPHERE IN CONNECTION WITH RABIN

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